APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/814,043	03/20/2001	John T. McDonald	END920000076US1(13997)	3529

7590   03/26/2003

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EXAMINER
INGBERG, TODD D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2124	

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 07-01)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _22 March 2002_ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under _Ex parte Quayle_, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☐ Claim(s) _1-15_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) _1-15_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _22 March 2001_ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _2_ .   6)☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1 - 15 have been examined.

Information Disclosure Statement

1.   The information disclosure statement filed March 22, 2002 has been considered.

Drawings

2.   This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for

examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Specification

3.   The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the terms method and system should

be deleted. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

4.   The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly

indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

5.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6.   Claims 1 - 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based upon a public use or sale of the

invention. Template Software Inc. product WorkFlow as documented by the documentation set

listed below:

Workflow released September 1997

        Developing a WFT Workflow System (Not used in this Office Action)

        Using the WFT Development Environment (Referred to as **Environ**)

        WFT Library Reference (Not used in this Office Action)

Claim 1

Template Software's commercial product Workflow version 8.0 released in 1997 **(Environ)** anticipates a method of providing a flexible infrastructure for managing a process **(Environ, Chapter 3 must be taken as a whole - WDE page 3-2)**, comprising: defining a Workflow type **(Environ,** workitems are the electronic forms, routing is the flow a form can follow, as illustrated page 3-5, figure 3-1) ; building a workflow pointer that defines the location of a database within a network **(Environ,** Schema, page 3-3 and Chapter 8, deployment the ability to transfer objects and persistent storage): coding subforms for the defined workflow type **(Environ,** pages 3-31 to 3-34 roles and the ability to customize routing rules page 3-3, custom, junction, ambiguous etc from table 3-1); defining and customizing role documents **(Environ,** Chapter 7, Application editor ability to assign tasks to specific roles); building process flow documents for the defined workflow type **(Environ,** routing and flows as per chapter 3 above); and building action control documents for determining what happens to the defined workflow type **(Environ,** the combination of the above features working together as depicted in Figure 3-1, page 3-5).

Claim 2

A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of defining the workflow type includes the step

of building a set of keyword documents (Workflow items as per claim 1) into the database that

uniquely identify the workflow type (as illustrated in Figure 3-1).

Claim 3

A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of defining and customizing role documents

includes the step of building a set of role definition keywords (**Environ**, the tasks as seen in

Figure 3-1, Order, Refuse etc) and role documents that control the workflow type (**Environ,**

creating roles, pages 3-22 - 3-24, defining, work items as seen in Figure 3-1, page 3-5 and the

interaction with the roles and the tasks the different roles can perform).

Claim 4

A method according to Claim 1, wherein the defined workflow type uses the process flow

documents to determine what action a given user may perform within a given workflow

document (**Environ**, creating roles, pages 3-22 - 3-24, defining, work items as seen in Figure 3-

1, page 3-5 and the interaction with the roles and the tasks the different roles can perform).

Claim 5

A method according to Claim 1, wherein the action control document run is defined by the

process flow documents (**Environ,** page 3-5, Figure 3-1, the flows a work item can take as

shown in the figure).

Claim 6

A system for providing a flexible infrastructure for managing a process, comprising: means for

defining a workflow type; means for building a workflow pointer that defines the location of a

database within a network; means for coding subforms for the defined workflow type,-means for

defining and customizing role documents; means for building process flow documents for the

defined workflow type; and means for building action control documents for determining what

happens to the defined workflow type. As per claim 1.

Claim 7

A system according to Claim 6, wherein the means for defining the workflow type includes

means for building a set of keyword documents into the database that uniquely identify

the workflow type. As per claim 2.

Claim 8

A system according to Claim 6, wherein the means for defining and customizing role documents

includes means for building a set of role definition keywords and role documents that control the

workflow type. As per claim 3.

Claim 9

A system according to Claim 6, wherein the defined workflow type uses the process flow

documents to determine what action a given user may perform within a given workflow

document. As per claim 4.

Claim 10

A system according to Claim 6, wherein the action control document run is defined by the process flow documents. As per claim 5.

Claim 11

A program storage device readable by machine and tangibly embodying a .set of instructions for the machine to perform method steps for providing a flexible infrastructure for managing a process, said method steps comprising: defining a workflow type; building a workflow pointer that defines the location of a database within a network; coding subforms for the defined workflow type; defining and customizing role documents; building process flow documents for the defined workflow type; and building action control documents for determining what happens to the defined workflow type. As per claim 1.

Claim 12

A program storage device according to Claim 11. wherein the step of defining the workflow type includes the step of building a set of keyword documents into the database that uniquely identify the workflow type. As per claim 2.

Claim 13

A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the step of defining and customizing role documents includes the step of building a set of role definition keywords and role documents that control the workflow type. As per claim 3.

Claim 14

A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the defined workflow type uses the

process flow documents to determine what action a given user may perform within a given

workflow document. As per claim 4.

Claim 15

A program storage device according to Claim 11, wherein the action control document run is

defined by the process flow documents. As per claim 5.

Correspondence Information

7.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

Examiner should be directed to **Todd Ingberg** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-9775.** The

Examiner is working a Maxi-Flex schedule and can be reached Monday through Friday. If

attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the **Examiner's Supervisor,**

Kakali Chaki be reached at **(703)305-9662.** Any response to this office action should be mailed

to: **Director of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231,** or **Hand-delivered**

responses should be brought to **Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia,**

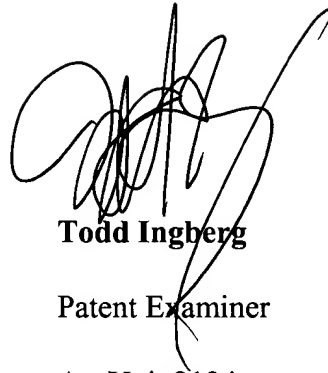**(Receptionist located on the fourth floor),** or **faxed.** The following **fax numbers** apply:

Official	**(703) 746 - 7239**
Non Official/ Draft	**(703) 746 -7240**
After Final	**(703) 746 - 7238**

Art Unit: 2124

Todd Ingberg

Patent Examiner

Art Unit 2124

March 17, 2003